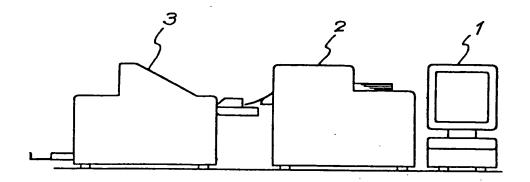
Fig 1



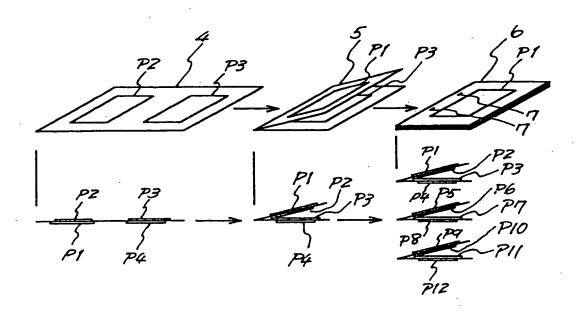


Fig 3

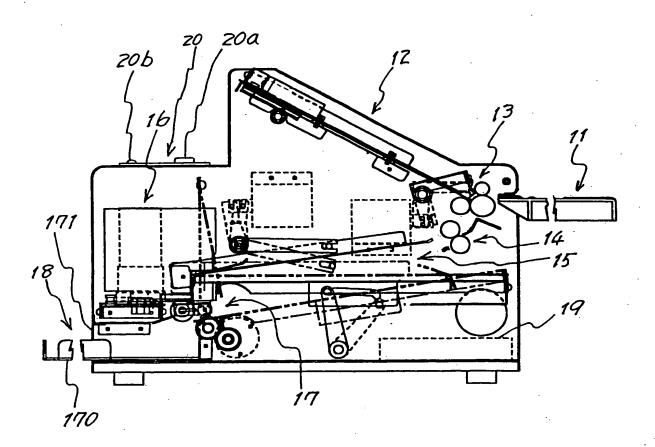
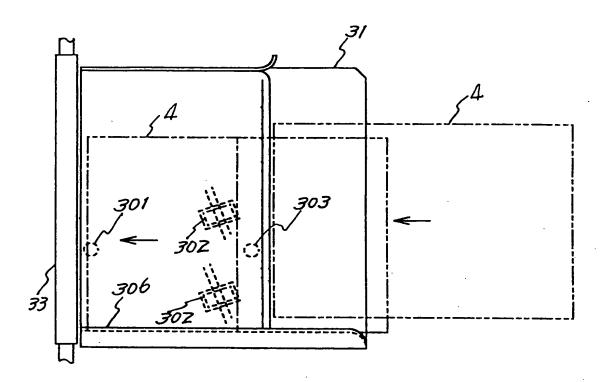
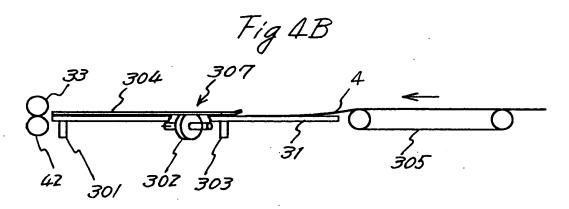


Fig 4A





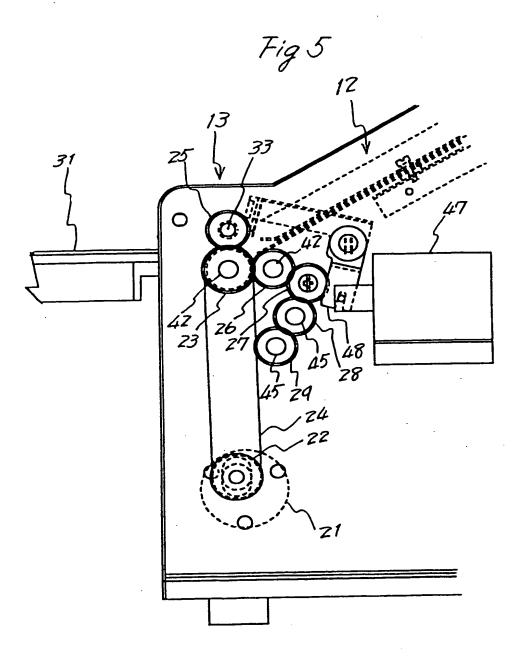
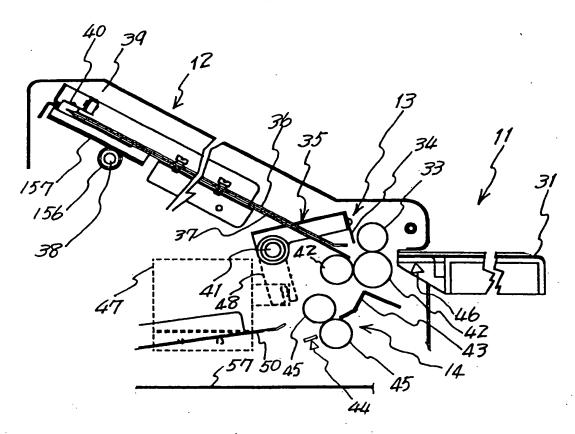
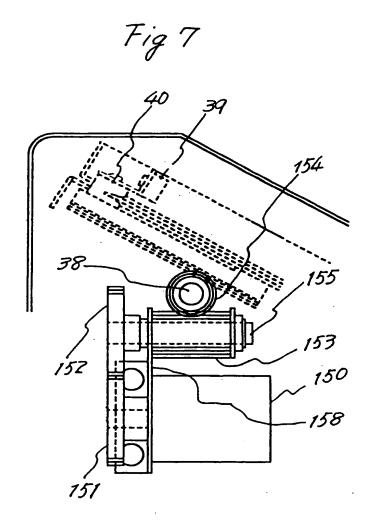


Fig 6





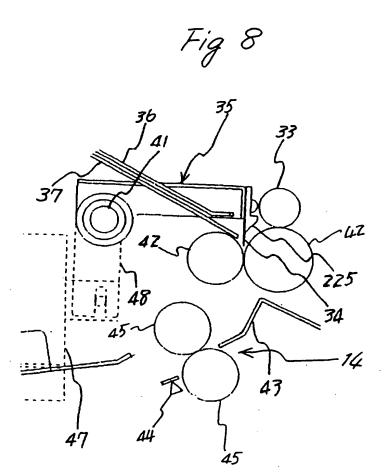


Fig 9

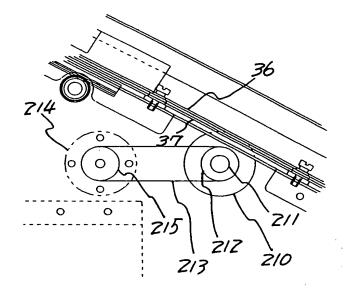
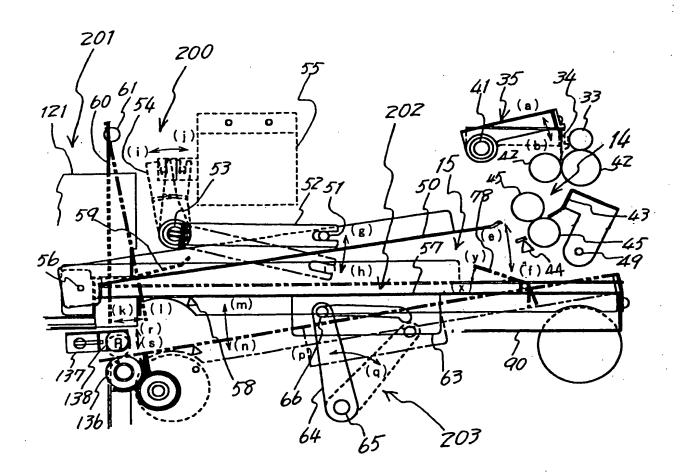
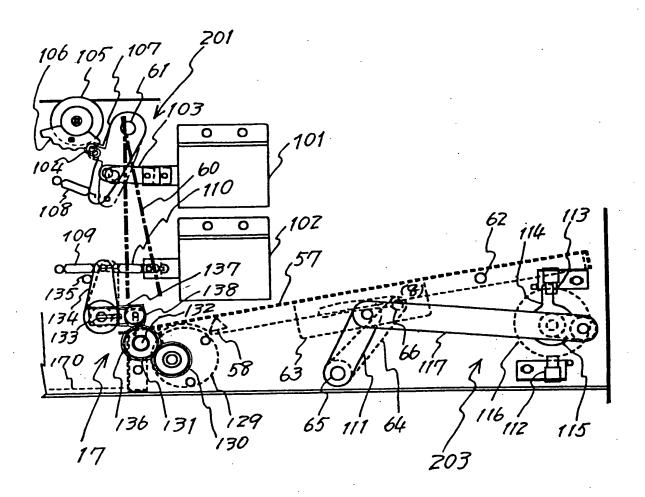
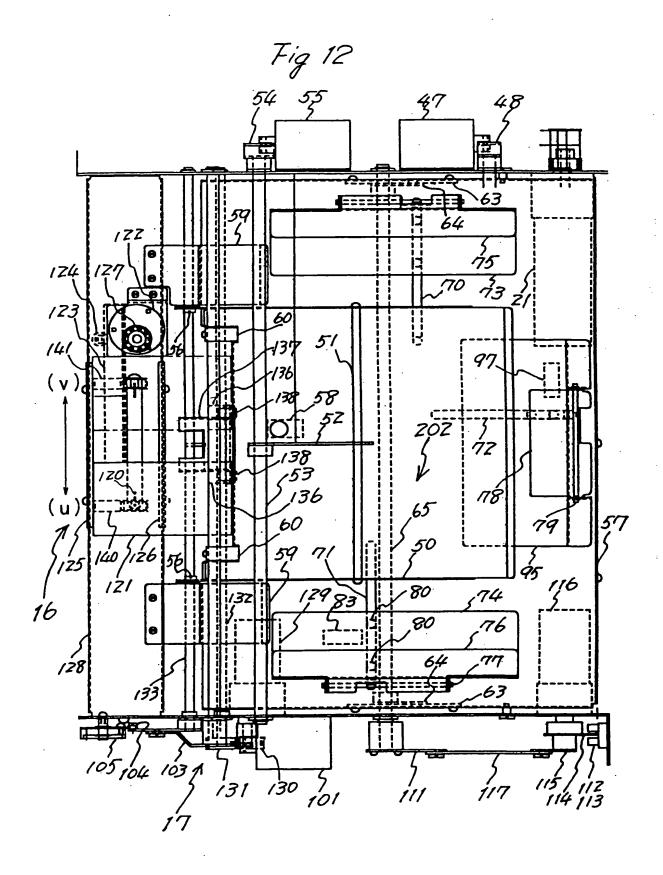


Fig 10







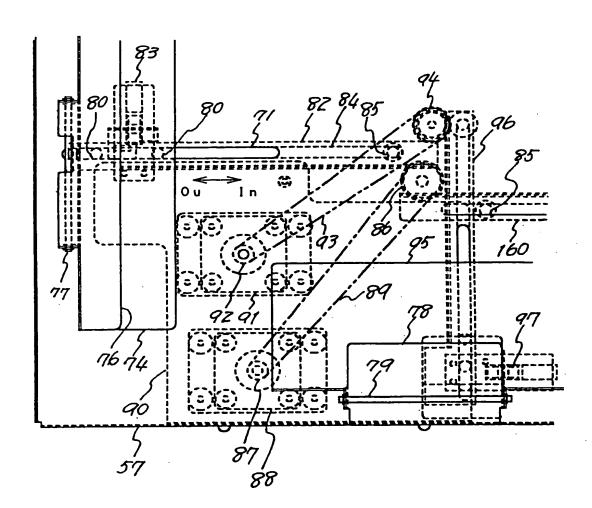


Fig 14

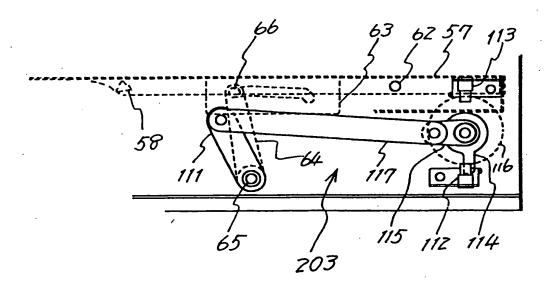
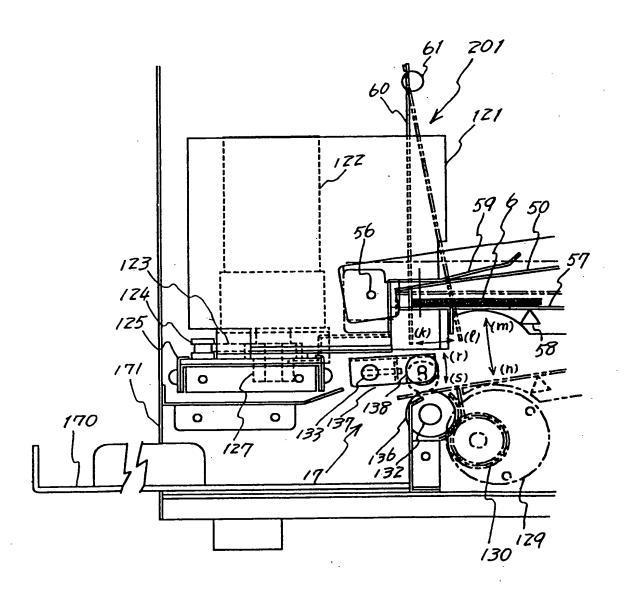
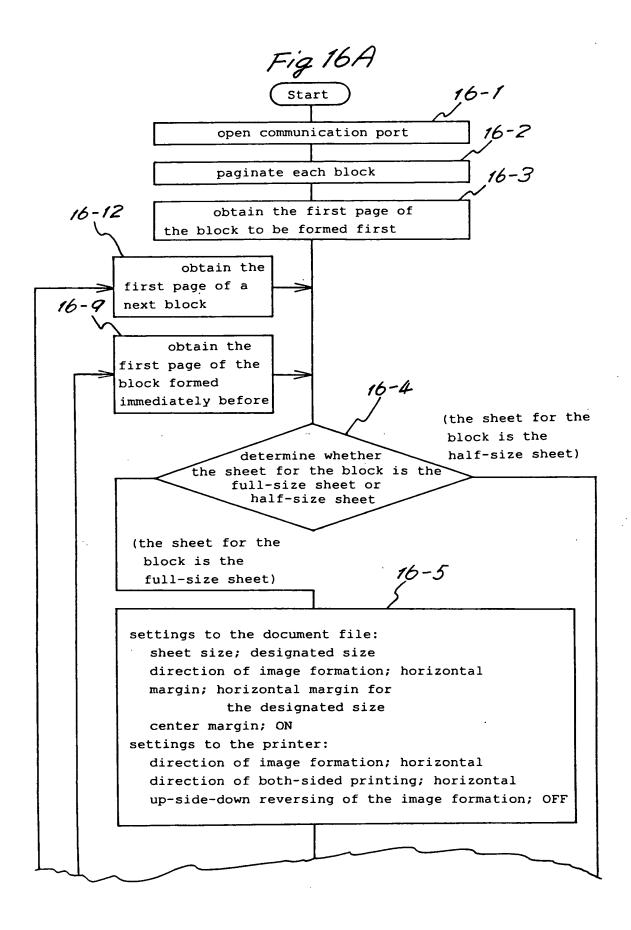
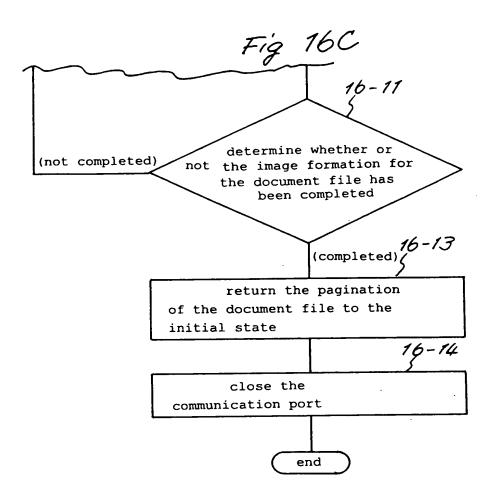


Fig 15



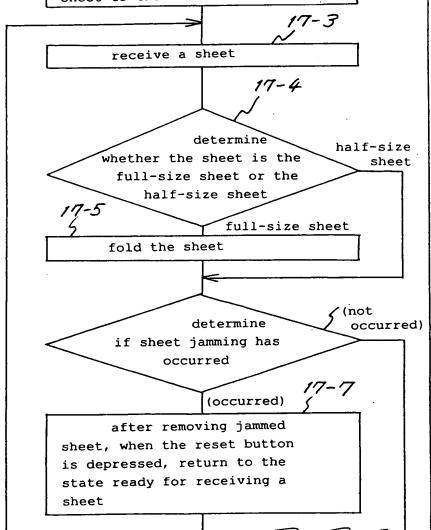


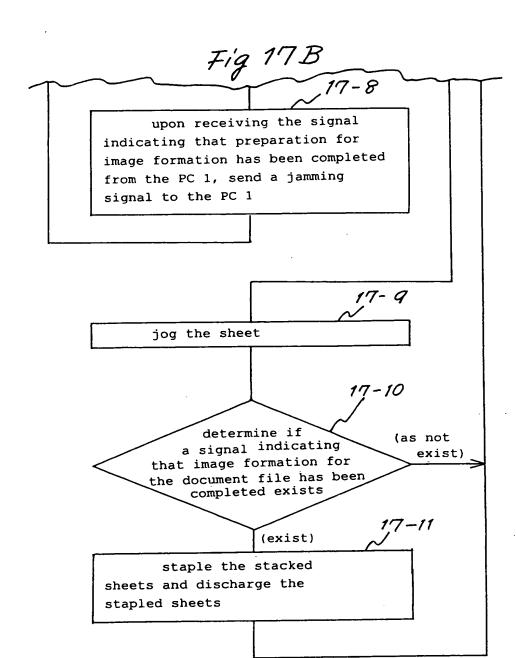


respective parts of the binding apparatus 3 move to the initial positions

17-2

upon receiving the signal indicating that preparation for image formation has been completed from the PC 1, send the signal indicating that the binding apparatus 3 is in the state ready for receiving a sheet to the PC 1





PC 1

18-11: send every one seconds a signal indicating that preparation of starting image formation for the first block has been completed

18-12: Upon receiving the signal indicating that the binding apparatus 3 is in the state ready for receiving a sheet, instruct the printer 2 to form images for the first block [p12, p9, p10, p11] on a sheet

binding apparatus 3

18-1: when the power is turned on, respective parts of the binding apparatus 3 move to predetermined positions, so that the binding apparatus 3 is put in a state ready for receiving a sheet and waiting for receiving a signal, and upon receiving the signal indicating that preparation of starting image formation for the first block has been completed, send a signal indicating that the binding apparatus 3 is in the state ready for receiving a sheet

18-2: receive the sheet carrying the images of the first block [p12, p9,p10, p11], folds the sheet and jogs the folded sheet

18-13: send every one seconds the signal indicating that preparation of starting image formation for the second block has been completed

18-14: Upon receiving the signal indicating that the binding apparatus 3 is in the state ready for receiving a sheet, instruct the printer 2 to form images for the second block [p8, p5 p6, p7] on a next sheet

18-3: after completion of jogging of the folded sheet, the binding apparatus 3 is put into the state ready for receiving a next sheet and waiting for receiving a signal, and upon receiving the signal indicating that preparation of starting image formation for the second block has been completed, send the signal indicating that the binding apparatus 3 is in the state ready for receiving a sheet

18-4: receive the sheet carrying the images of the second block [p8, p5, p6, p7], folds the sheet, stacks the folded sheet on the previously conveyed folded sheet and jogs the stacked folded sheet

18-15: sends every one seconds the signal indicating that preparation of starting image formation for the third block (last block) has been completed

18-16: Upon receiving the signal indicating that the binding apparatus 3 is in the state ready for receiving a sheet, instruct the printer 2 to form images for the last block [p4, p1, p2, p3] on a next sheet

18-5: after completion of jogging of the folded sheet, the binding apparatus 3 is put into the state ready for receiving a next sheet and waiting for receiving a signal, and upon receiving the signal indicating that preparation for forming images for the last block has been completed, send the signal indicating that the binding apparatus 3 is in the state ready for receiving a next sheet

18-6: receive the sheet carrying the images of the last block [p4, p1, p2, p3], and in this example, the received sheet is jammed, the jammed sheet is removed, and the reset button is depressed

18-17: send every one seconds a signal indicating that the image formation has been completed and no block remains

18-18: Upon receiving the sheet jamming signal, instruct the printer 2 to form the images for the block immediately before, i.e., for the last block [p4, p1, p2, p3]

18-7: the binding apparatus 3 is then returned to the state before the sheet jamming occurs, i.e., the state ready for receiving a sheet and waiting for receiving a signal, and upon receiving the signal indicating that the image formation has been completed and no block remains, send a sheet jamming signal indicating that the received sheet has been jammed

18-8: receive the sheet carrying the images of the last block [p4, p1, p2, p3], folds the sheet, stacks the folded sheet on the previously stacked folded sheets, jogs the stacked folded sheet, staples a stack of folded sheets, and discharges the stapled stack of folded sheets

Fig 18E

18-19: send every one seconds a signal indicating that the image formation has been completed and no block remains

18-20: Upon receiving the signal indicating that the binding apparatus 3 is in the state ready for receiving a sheet, end the communication with the controller 19 of the binding apparatus 3

18-9: after completion of discharging of the stapled stack of folded sheets, the binding apparatus 3 is put into the state ready for receiving a sheet and waiting for receiving a signal, and upon receiving the signal indicating that the image formation has been completed and no block remains, send the signal indicating that the binding apparatus 3 is in the state ready for receiving a sheet